

Appl. No. 10/642,774
Amdt. Dated 05/22/2006
Reply to Office Action of January 20, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the outstanding office action, claims 13 through 21 have been canceled as being substantially duplicative, and new claims 29 through 35 have been added.

In the prior office action, claims 10, 12, 19, 21 and 28 were indicated as being allowable if presented in independent form and other matters tended to. Also it was noted that claims 11 and 20 depended on claims 10 and 19, and accordingly it was believed that these claims should also have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter as depending on claims containing allowable subject matter and as providing greater specificity to the claimed combination (see the current office action). Accordingly, previous claims 10-12, 19-21 and 28 have been presented herein as new claims 29-35.

In the outstanding office action, some of the rejected claims were rejected on Tan in view of Schuelke, and others on Tan in view of Schuelke and Royer. Reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested for the following reasons. Using the example of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6-9, 13 and 16-18, the examiner states that Tan shows a feedback circuit coupled [to] the resistor [the resistor providing the tail current to the output devices] to control the modulation current of the output devices by control of the bias on the predriver circuit. In Tan (Figure 3), the tail current is provided by the unlabeled resistor coupled to the emitters of transistors 300. Using the terminology of claim 1, there is no "feedback circuit coupled to the resistor to control a modulation current of the output devices by control of bias on the predriver circuit". In that regard, transistor 330 of Tan is not coupled to the tail current resistor to provide a feedback, as the current through transistor 330 is controlled by the voltage sensor bias setting block 194, not any voltage on or current through the resistor. Schuelke discloses common mode feedback as noted by the examiner, but clearly the tail current in Schuelke is the fixed current source 17d.

Further, Schuelke is not a cascade circuit. Therefore the combination of Tan in view of Schuelke fails to disclose or render obvious the claimed combination, as there is no teaching or suggestion that the two be combined, and when combined, they fail to teach or render obvious the claimed combination. Royer is cited for its reference to a PTAT circuit, though fails to show a key element also not found in Tan or Schuelke. Therefore the claims rejected on these three references are also not obvious based on these three references.

Finally with respect to the rejection of claim 8, it is noted that the examiner cites three references, though cites no art for the cursory rejection of the "single external adjustment" of this claim on obviousness. There is no example set out as to how this could be done.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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By


Roger W. Blakely, Jr.
Reg. No. 25,831
Tel.: (714) 557-3800 (Pacific Coast)

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025

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